Repatriation of Hijackers of IC-814 Flight

† 1304. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a formal request to Government of Pakistan to repatriate the five hijackers and their two accomplices responsible for hijacking of aircraft IC-8I4 of Indian Airlines in December last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Government have provided evidence to the Government of Pakistan indicating the involvement of its nationals in the hijacking of IC-814 in December 1999. Government have also informed Pakistan that there are grounds to believe that the hijackers are currently in Pakistan. Government have reminded the Government of Pakistan that as a signatory to several International Conventions against Terrorism, as also the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration, it has the obligation to take the hijackers into custody and to extradite them to India.

(c) The Government of Pakistan, in its response has reiterated the general position that it would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on its territory or the territory of Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed such offences related to hijacking. However, as they have at the same time rejected our demarche, Pakistan's general commitment is of little value.

General Musharraf's Offer for Dialogue

† 1305. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the official reaction of Pakistan's Chief Executive Gen. Pervez Musharraf offer for a dialogue, "Anytime, any plan and at any level";

(b) how long will this status continue;

(c) whether Government would think of initiating some sort of dialogue inspite of Pakistan's encouragement to cross border terrorism, provocation to extremism and constant advocacy of Jehad; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.